

**Montana Department of Military Affairs
Disaster & Emergency Services Division
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for September 15, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

Wildfires of 2003

Attention * - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

I. Background Information:

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

II. Current Montana Fire Situation:

A. Large Fires

Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 4

National Preparedness Level = 5

- *Northwest Area Command (Williams-Rhodes) is managing the following large fires:*
 - *Blackfoot Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Bennett) – 29,836 acres, 38% contained, 19 miles E of Kalispell.*
 - *Trapper Creek Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Sandman) - 70,406 acres, 30% contained. This incident is comprised of the Trapper Creek, Middle Fork and Rampage Complexes located in Glacier National Park .*
 - *Little Salmon Creek Wildland Fire Complex – 45,861 acres, 0% contained, located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. This will be the last report unless significant activity occurs.*
 - *Little Salmon Creek Fire Use Complex – This 45,732 acre lightning caused Wildland Fire Use complex is located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. This complex is being managed to accomplish resource objectives. This will be the last report unless significant activity occurs.*
 - *Robert – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Sandman) – 57,570 acres, 65% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
- *Fish Creek Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Lohrey) – 39,956 acres, 75% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula.*
- *Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Blume) – 25,680 acres, 100% contained, 11 miles E of Florence.*
- *Mineral/Primm – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Larsen) – 25,202 acres, 78% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula.*
- *Lincoln Complex – 39,707 acres, 80% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln.*

B. Initial Attack *Minimal initial attack – 3 new fires 501 acres*

C. State Forecast For Montana

STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT
426 AM MDT MON SEP 15 2003

WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

Today - Mostly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Rain Showers. Highs 63 To 73.

Tonight - Mostly Cloudy. Chance Of Rain Showers. Lows 37 To 47.

Tuesday - Rain And Snow Showers Likely In The Northern Mountains. Otherwise Cloudy With A Chance Of Rain Showers. Highs 51 To 61.

CENTRAL MONTANA

Today - Mostly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Rain Showers. Highs In The Mid 50s To Mid 60s.

Tonight - Mostly Cloudy. Rain Likely. Lows In The Mid 30s To Mid 40s.

Tuesday - Mostly Cloudy. Chance Of Rain. Highs In The Upper 40s To Upper 50s.

SOUTHWEST MONTANA

Today - Partly Cloudy. Highs In The Mid 50s To Upper 60s.

Tonight - Mostly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Rain. Lows In The 30s.

Tuesday - Mostly Cloudy. Chance Of Rain And Snow. Highs In The Lower To Mid 50s.

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA

Today - Mostly Cloudy North...Partly Cloudy Elsewhere. Highs In The 60s And 70s.

Tonight - Mostly Cloudy With A Chance Of Showers North And West. Lows In The 40s.

Tuesday - Mostly Cloudy With A Chance Of Showers. Windy West. Highs In The 60s And 70s.

III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:

The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Carbon County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Dawson County	Emergency Declaration	8/27/03

The US Small Business Administration has issued a Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9W74 for the following counties:

Flathead	Glacier	Lake	Lewis& Clark
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Lincoln
Sanders
Teton
Broadwater
Cascade

Chouteau
Jefferson
Meagher
Mineral
Missoula

Pondera
Powell
Toole
Beaverhead
Granite

Park
Ravalli
Stillwater
Sweet Grass

Declaration of Economic and Injury Disaster #9W74 has been amended to include all counties listed above in the State of Montana as an economic injury disaster area due to the effects of forest fires. Applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in the counties of Carbon, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Golden Valley, Madison, Silver Bow, Wheatland and Yellowstone may also be filed. The deadline for filing is May 26, 2004.

The declarations and amendments may be found on the web at:
<http://www.discoveringmontana.com/dma/des/presidentialeo.asp>

IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:

Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)

Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. *The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level II. Level II operations will include a partial staff 0800-1700 during weekdays. The Duty Officer will monitor operations during the weekend.*

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

Current Montana National Guard Resources	
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS	AIR GUARD AIRMEN
13	2

V. FEMA Grants:

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

The Northern Rockies Coordination Center information line has scaled back service hours to 0830 to 1700.

VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:

For the latest fire restrictions:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

For the latest closures and evacuations:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures

For detailed information on specific fires or priorities:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed_sit.htm

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac_priorities.doc

VII. Current Updates to SITREP Distribution:

Effective 9-15-03, the Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will reduce operations from Activation Level III to Activation Level II. Included in this reduction in activation level is a change in Situation Report (SITREP) posting times. MTDES will be posting the SITREP on a weekly basis instead of daily. If operational tempo increases SITREP distribution will revert to daily reports. MTDES does not currently anticipate such an occurrence.